At first glance, the term quality of life may seem a bit nebulous. What does it mean, after all? Essentially, it's how we live, what the community offers and what we treasure that can be passed on to our children. It's that feeling of satisfaction when we realize that Lafayette is a great place to live and raise a family.

Quality of Life

Every good South Louisiana cook knows the success to any gumbo is the roux, the basic ingredient. If the roux is prepared properly, the gumbo has a strong foundation.

In Acadiana, people are the roux on which the community is based. Of course, the influence of the Cajun heritage is dominant. Those who settled in Acadiana hundreds of years ago, after they were expelled from Nova Scotia, brought principles that included hard work, emphasis on family, the strength to overcome adversity and, perhaps, best of all, a joie de vivre, or joy of life.

Descendants of those families have retained many of those principles and qualities. But it has not been a closed society. What they have learned, they have shared with others. What they have cooked, they have put on the table for strangers. They have opened the doors to what they have constructed.

With that spirit in abundance, it is not just Cajuns who can call Acadiana home. People who move to the area, and open their minds and hearts to see what makes Acadiana so special, are welcomed.

They find strong family ties here, where parents work hard to make life better for their children. They find strong religious beliefs that keep the community rooted. They find dozens of festivals that celebrate almost every aspect of Cajun life—from boudin to music.

It doesn't take much to throw a party in Acadiana and everyone is welcome who's willing to dance a little and sing a little and laugh a lot.

Despite the oil bust, there are jobs that keep residents working: schools that stress quality education; a university whose positive impact is immeasurable; and a government that takes care of its people.

Add up all these ingredients, and Acadiana offers a quality of life that is hard to match.